



Solarize Frederick County



Photovoltaic solar panels purchased in a community volume purchase. KW Management of Nashua, NH installed the systems at Nubanusit Neighborhood & Farm Cohousing, Peterborough, NH 2010-11. www.peterboroughcohousing.org

Would you put a solar system on your home if it was affordable?

Would you like to see more solar systems in your neighborhood?

If your solar system price got lower and lower as more households signed contracts, would you be even more interested?

If you answered YES, then turn this flier over and learn more about Solarize Frederick County!

Solarize Frederick County...

- Seeks an ideal neighborhood to promote a volume purchasing initiative that can result in significant savings for both solar PV systems and solar thermal systems
- Offers incentive grants -- \$750 - \$1,000 for solar thermal and \$2,000 - \$2,500 for solar PV installations. That's in addition to Maryland state grants and federal tax credits.

Fill out a Neighborhood Interest Form! Your neighborhood could be selected as the pilot for the first Solarize Frederick County initiative!



Questions?

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Solarize Frederick County

The *Solarize Frederick County* Pilot Project is a volume-purchasing (or leasing) program for solar photovoltaic (PV) and solar hot water systems that will be implemented in one selected community or neighborhood within Frederick County in 2013. As part of the Frederick County Green Homes Renewable Star Challenge, the Office of Sustainability and Environmental Resources (OSER) will coordinate the Solarize Frederick County pilot. Neighborhood leaders and residents will help evaluate and select the contractors bidding for the installations, and promote the initiative to friends and neighbors.

The pilot project will help friends and neighbors come together to purchase solar systems as a community and save significant costs as a result of bulk purchasing. By choosing only one or two contractors, and conducting promotional campaigns, Solarize Frederick County can hand deliver contractors warm leads in a small geographic area in a restricted period of time. Job grouping, a limited enrollment period, and community led sales can result in significant savings. Solarize initiatives in other states have resulted in as much as 25-30% in cost savings. In addition, local incentive grants will be available for purchased systems.

For example, if Solarize Frederick County follows the trends of other Solarize initiatives, a 4 KW solar PV system costing \$22,000 could be reduced through volume purchasing by 25%, lowering the cost to \$16,500. The cost would be reduced even more with a \$2,500 local incentive grant, a \$1,000 Maryland State Grant, and a 30% Federal Tax Credit! Along with utility bill savings and the annual sale of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), it's very affordable! Volume-purchasing rates and other incentives will also be made available to other Frederick County households that sign-up during the enrollment period; more participants mean lower costs!

The goals of *Solarize Frederick County* include

- Educating the public about renewable energy options and systems,
- Making solar installations more commonplace and affordable for homeowners.
- Supporting the renewable energy business sector and workforce, and
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and energy use from non-renewable sources.

To do this, Solarize Frederick County coordinators will

- Provide \$750 - \$1,000 incentive grants for purchased solar thermal systems and \$2,000 - \$2,500 incentive grants for purchased solar PV systems. Households certified as Power Savers in Green Homes Challenge receive higher grants.
- Provide Solarize Frederick County promotional materials for the neighborhood.
- Organize and lead informational meetings or workshops in the selected neighborhood.
- Coordinate vendor proposal development, dissemination, evaluation, and selection.
- Coordinate volume purchasing with vendors (including options for leasing or power purchase agreements) to bring down the overall cost of systems.
- Track solar installations and resulting energy savings.

A homeowner or neighborhood association interested in having their neighborhood considered for the Solarize Frederick County Pilot may submit the [Neighborhood Interest Form](#) by December 12, 2012.